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The Canadian wounded are now coming back from base hospitals abroad in much greater numbers than heretofore, so that the figures here given will be largely increased, but it is not expected that the problem will be different. Existing facilities for industrial training may need to be greatly increased because of returning soldiers, but they need to be increased anyway, because America has only begun to provide facilities for the industrial training of her working people. The extension of existing facilities along the usual lines will enable these extensions to serve perfectly in later peace times.

There is apparently no need of special institutions, which would be of little use in later years, or of large numbers of instructors set apart for this particular problem. It commonly takes six months or less to train a disabled soldier, and that training enriches the experience and develops the abilities of the industrial instructors in the regular work.

We have most excellent institutions for the lame, the blind, and all other defectives. Why not simply and quietly further strengthen the masterful directors of these institutions, and send our worst injured to them?

It is hoped that the statements here made will not be taken as an attempt to do more than state broadly the main features of the situation. They are based upon the *Report of the Work of the Military Hospitals Commission of Canada*, May, 1917, and attendance upon a recent meeting of the controlling authorities of the Province of Ontario.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

H. E. MILES,

(Chairman, Section on Industrial
Training for the War Emergency.)

A PLEA TO THE PRESIDENT

SIR,—I have read with a mingled sense of admiration and pain your editorial, "Thank God for Wilson," in the January number of THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW. Admiration, because of the brilliant ability and justice with which you have characterized a great and critical situation. Pain, because, at this supreme crisis of national and world interests, there should exist the conditions which compel the criticism.

Politically I am a Republican who patriotically and intensely wishes the largest and broadest success for Mr. Wilson's Administration. I earnestly covet for him not only the promptings of highest patriotism, but also that statesmanlike breadth and wisdom which the present so supremely demands. If his future shall demonstrate this, I could easily forget that he was ever a political partizan.

To a multitude of studious observers of public men and events, it is not altogether easy to obliterate the memories, and the fears which such memories engender, of both words and acts recorded in the first term of Mr. Wilson's Administration, which, taken together, were frequently at cross-purposes, not only failing to give clue to large, clear, heroic, and consistent national policies, but which in the thought of millions of the best-thinking Americans seemed partizan rather than patriotic, vacillating rather than firm, exhibiting more of calculation in the interests of political issues than of unselfish concern for momentous and over-shadowing world-interests.

But since the great and well nigh peerless state paper issued April second last, Mr. Wilson has traveled measureless distances toward instating himself in the confidence of patriotic America. He is a man of transcendent intellectuality. In his higher moods, if he would only always dwell upon these upper planes, he has great vision. The sincerity of his patriotism is not to be questioned. The real interrogation concerning him is, as to whether he has a sustained ability to dwell habitually upon the plane of his own best thinking; or, as to whether, in choosing his official advisers, he has the best discernment of fitting men; or, whether he is not too saturninely confident of his own ability, irrespective of advisers, to meet the herculean requirements of the hour; or, finally, whether he is not under the obsessing lure that, in this time of world-emergency, when every ounce of patriotic strength throughout the land needs to be called into requisition, the Democratic party alone should rightfully assume autocratic and exclusive control of the nation's affairs.

In alignment with your own editorial, it is a matter of great regret as well as of grave concern, with multitudes in the nation, that Mr. Wilson seems either to lack disposition or capacity to extend a more elastic reach in the selection of men for patriotic service; that, among his pre-eminent gifts, the art of exercising the non-partizan spirit, even for the country's supreme good, does not seem to be in him so well developed.

Lincoln lives, and will forever live, as one of the most illustrious of historic characters. But when the nation was rocked in the seeming throes of dissolution, when his own political future might seem to be jeopardized, he had the sagacity, the statesmanship, the superb unselfish devotion to the national welfare, to choose as his advisers men of known and transcendent ability, even though they were his personal rivals. In time of war, he finally selected as the War Secretary a Democrat, Edwin M. Stanton, but a man whose blood was richly charged with iron.

There are at least two positions in the present Cabinet which should be filled, irrespective of the partizan antecedents, by men of the largest ability and experience to be found in the nation—the War and the Naval Secretaryships. It will prove a source of discreditable weakness, and it might be of infinite disaster, if in any Cabinet position of today any man or men, charged with prodigious and grave responsibilities, should be so narrow-visaged as in any measure to divert themselves in the attempt to build up their own political fences for the future. Mere political partizanship in America in these days is not only small: it is contemptible. Among men in positions of high administrative responsibility it borders either on incapacity or criminality.

To very many good, loyal, and discerning Americans, it appears as nothing less indeed than a tragedy of short-sightedness—or something else as fully discreditable—that at this time of supreme crisis, when the nation's needs rise on every hand to Alpinous heights, no place equal to his conspicuous, available, and well nigh unequalled abilities can be found for the patriotic services of Theodore Roosevelt. It seems to very many others an unexplained misfortune that a man with the unquestioned patriotism, the exceptional experience, and acknowledged abilities, of General Leonard Wood should in times like these be remanded to a comparatively useless desuetude.

With all my heart I say with you: "God bless Wilson." For the sake of a world-humanity, for the sake of untold Americans yet unborn, I devoutly pray that he may be inspired for adequate leadership of this greatest nation on the globe, and for all the coming days of immeasurable and most critical needs.

HARRISBURG, PA.

GEORGE P. MAINS.

HUMORING THE BEAST

SIR,—Thanks for "The Sinners and the Sin" in the November number. I believe it represents the conclusions and belief of those who have prescience enough to see what must be done to end this war, and thereby possibly all future wars. The "dawning consciousness" will soon become the fully illuminated conviction of even those who, like myself (a former member of the American Peace Society), are opposed to war and militarism, but who are unable to comprehend more than one way of dealing with a mad dog retaining diabolical intelligence and efficiency.

One of the strangest things connected with the conflict is, that our Government so easily falls into ways for making the path of the mad dog easier. For example, it is an old principle of the law of this and all other countries, that an alien enemy cannot sue in the courts thereof during the continuance of war. His right is suspended until peace is declared. Yet Congress, in the very *Trading with the Enemy Act*, approved October 6, 1917, provides, in substance, that:

(1.) A citizen of the United States may apply for a license under a patent owned by a German, *provided* he deposits a *trust fund* with the alien enemy custodian as security for the German, against a recovery by a suit to be brought after the close of the war. *Or*,

(2.) If he refuses to take a license under such terms, *he may now be sued for infringement by the German patent owner at war with us*, by means of a power of attorney given to some attorney in this country so unpatriotic as to plead in our courts the cause of an enemy alien seeking to destroy us.

Within three weeks after this became a law, the representatives of at least one alien enemy took advantage of it.

The alleged reasons for the law are, that it is desired to preserve reciprocal relations with Germany with respect to patent rights, and to give citizens of this country the "right" to make and sell articles controlled by patents owned in Germany.

The folly of this is apparent when it is considered:

1. That a citizen of this country already has the *privilege* of making and selling such articles, subject of course to suit *after the war* for infringement, if a court should find such exists, and the payment of damages for such infringement.

2. That a citizen of this country cannot bring a suit in a German court during the war (Save the mark!), and

3. That most German patents owned by American citizens are already void under the German law, because of the inability to pay the yearly taxes thereon required by the German law to keep the patents alive.

In return for nothing except the alleged good will of the Beast, we have therefore given him the right to require United States manufac-